



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

October 25, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

Meeting called to order, in person and as a video conference call, by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: John Cherry, John Cooke, Cheryl Hill, Ed Moore, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Mary Burke.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the September meeting were submitted. A motion by GSmith to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by JCooke. Passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

eMail: RECEIVED: Grant information from the American Theatre Wing for public school theatre productions forwarded to Dr. MObre of Danbury Schools; information re: appointments to the Commission to Alicia (Damia) or Renato Ghio and Bob Lussiere.

SENT: replies

Mail: Art exhibit at UConn.,

Phone: Information re: appointment to the Commission with Tom Matson.

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- Richter Association for the Arts Performance Series Fall 2021- Weekly on Sunday, until Nov 1

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
 - Danbury Symphony at Bardo Garage

HCenter attended and reports there were 40 to 50 in attendance. The concert was good.

- Danbury Museum
 - Guided Tours of 4 Danbury Museum Historic Buildings on our Main Street campus
 - The outdoor exhibit panels are installed.
- Danbury Railway Museum
 - Pumpkin Patch train
- Palace Theater Danbury
 - Manhattan Short Film Festival
 - Not Fade Away
 - Mr Jimmy
- Dancing Under the Stars - CityCenter Monthly on the last Thursday
- Galleries
 - Gallery at Still River Editions
 - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
- Fall Reflections: Songs of Hope, Thanks, & New Beginnings - Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Oct. 9
- Head Over Heels - WCSU Department of Theatre Arts, October 16
- Danbury Library

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
DANBURY TOWN CLERK

2021 NOV 24 P 2:12

BY: 



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Upcoming events

Calendar submitted to the Commissioners, and maintained at DanburyArts.com See addendum

Coordinator's Report

1. I attended the Seminar The Arts Revitalize the Economy: Roundtable Discussion on October 8th. City and Town chief executives discussed their plans for producing, and promoting the arts in their municipalities.
2. Discussion with Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut, Danbury Music Centre, and Danbury Museum about future projects
3. Response open rate to Press Releases (with Comcast added)
 - a. WLAD 1
 - b. Comcast 3
 - c. News-Times 2
 - d. WVIT 3
4. Chairman Center and I discussed guidelines for potential new Commissioners. The details will be presented as Old Business.
5. Intern The work of the intern is on-going.
 - a. Scanning poems
 - b. Increasing University participation in producing/promoting events

Appeals from Community groups:

Danbury Music Centre - Laura Flachbart, President and Marcie Gemza

Seeking funding for the Nutcracker Ballet and The Young People's Concert

HCenter: Do you want the Commission to support the requests by individual projects or as a group?

LFlachbart: as individual projects.

NUTCRACKER- MGemza: Danbury High School has strict safety guidelines for using the auditorium. The number of dancers is down 23%, to 165, masks must be worn or proof of vaccination or a negative test. The expected income from this production is expected to be lower than past years by \$20,000 (projected income (60.000).

JCherry: Does the Music Centre receive any other City funding for the Nutcracker? LFlachbart: no.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT- date most likely in May, subject to Visual & Performing Arts Center (VPAC) availability. The First Congregational Church is also a venue option. Additional safety protocols are in place including MERV covers on brass instruments, air filters have been purchased and are in use, windows are open as much as possible.

Derek Piotr - Artist

During the previous project the assistance from the North Carolina Folklife Institute and Yale's Beinecki Library uncovered that Folk music of Connecticut is becoming lost. This project will attempt to unearth this music and bring it back in a series of performances and recorded medium. There is support from numerous research groups. The COVID epidemic has allowed Yale to offer some research for free. This project will focus on Connecticut's music. Performance venues have been explored for Bethel, Newtown and Vermont.



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Old Business

1. Guidelines for grant applications.
 - a. Provided for Commissioners. General discussion and additional discussion tabled until November.
2. Apparel - The coordinator will go to lovino Brothers for final pricing on Thursday
3. Designs for Danbury discussion.
 - a. GSmith: The awards must be of enough value so as to solicit the 'best' suggestions. The Coordinator is compiling an addresses list of contractors and architects licensed in and around Danbury to circulate a request for ideas. GSmith and the Coordinator will continue their committee work on this project.
 - b. MOVED: EMOore to encumber \$9,000 for awards for Designs for Danbury. Seconded by JCooke.
DISCUSSION: The awards will be \$5,000 for first prize, \$3,000 for second prize, and \$1,000 for third prize.
CALLED: by VOICE VOTE: Passed unanimous.
4. Guidelines for Commission member nominees.
 - a. Provided to the Commissioners. General discussion.
 - b. MOVED: GSmith to accept the guidelines for Nomination to the Commission and make a packet available for distribution.
DISCUSSION: GSmith and JCooke request the packet as soon as it is available. The Coordinator has already contacted Alicia (Damia) or Renato Ghio, Bob Lussiere and Tom Matson about seeking an appointment.
CALLED by VOICE VOTE: Passed unanimous.

Action on Grant Requests:

Danbury Music Centre requests \$25,000 for two (2) projects.

Moved by GSmith to grant \$5,000, seconded by CHill for the Nutcracker Ballet.

DISCUSSION: the Coordinator outlined past City funding of the Music Centre.

CALLED by VOICE VOTE: Funding of \$5,000 Passed with one (1) opposed vote.

Moved by JCooke to grant \$6,500, seconded by CHill for the Young People's Concert.

DISCUSSION: EMOore: noted this would be larger funding for the concert which has a smaller audience than the ballet. HCenter: there are additional funding opportunities for all projects. JCooke asked to lower the grant amount to \$5,000 to make the two projects the same. CHill accepted the amendment.

CALLED by VOICE VOTE: funding of \$5,000 passed without objection.

Derek Piotr requests \$2,000. Moved by GSmith to grant \$2,000, seconded by CHill.

DISCUSSION: JCooke: If performances of these collected works remain a part of the project then at least one performance must be held in Danbury. GWencek will assist in securing a venue, if required.

CALLED by VOICE VOTE: Funding of \$2,000 passed with one abstaining vote.



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New Business

None

Other Business

Intern report: Jonathan Wencek - working on prescribed projects for increased youth participation.

Motion to adjourn at 7:51

Made by EMoore. Passed by Unanimous vote.

NOTE:

Corporation Counsel has provided the Clerk's office with the following... Current as of 3/16/20:

Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B issued on 3/14/20, the requirement of public attendance at all meetings of public agencies is suspended. Meetings are to be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, provided that (in summary):

1) the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time by phone, video or other technology.

Therefore the Commission office had set up a video conference call which started at 6:00 on Monday evening. Commissioners and the public connected to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85641825624?pwd=UVBzdXhDRUw2RE4zTko4dDJMTjFmZz09>

Meeting ID: 856 4182 5624 Passcode: 051953

One tap mobile: +1929 436 2866,,85641825624# US (New York)	Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) Meeting ID: 856 4182 5624 Passcode: 051953
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The meeting started at 6:30 and was not recorded by the Commission.



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Upcoming events Addendum

* Richter Association for the Arts Performance
Series Fall 2021

Sunday, September 26 · 12:00 – 1:30pm
Weekly on Sunday, until Nov 1, 2021

* Pre-Halloween Concert - Danbury Brass Band
Sunday, October 31 · 2:00 – 3:30pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church

10 Year Retrospective Group Exhibition - Gallery
at Still River Editions

June 12 – December 17, 2021

Still River Editions

128 E Liberty St Suite 3, Danbury, CT 06810

PUMPKIN PATCH TRAINS - Danbury Railway
Museum Pumpkin Patch Trains Saturdays:
October 23 & Sundays: October 24 every hour on
the half hour 10:30 - 3:30

Western Connecticut State University

BYOT (Bring your own T-shirt) & PRINT; Block
Printing Workshop - WCSU

Thu, October 28, 2021 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Oktoberfest Jazz - WCSU

Friday, October 29, 2021 7:00 – 8:30pm

MELANCHOLY PLAY: a chamber musical - WCSU

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, until Nov. 7, 2021

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band

by Visual & Performing Arts Center at WCSU
Nov. 6

Percussion Ensemble

by Visual & Performing Arts Center at WCSU
Nov. 7

*Events sponsored by the Commission